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98-02924



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

JUN 5 1998

96-262

The Honorable John Breaux
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

JUN 30 1998

Dear Senator Breaux:

Thank you for your letter sharing the concerns of your constituent, Mrs. Patricia Simoneaux, regarding certain Commission actions in the *Access Charge Reform Order*. Mrs. Simoneaux, a telecommunications manager at Tulane University, expressed concern regarding the assessment of a \$5,750.82 national access charge fee by MCI on the University's phone bill for long distance services.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the *Access Charge Reform* order, which reformed important aspects of telephone regulation. Access charges are paid by long distance carriers to local telephone carriers so that the long distance companies can use the local lines to initiate and complete interstate long distance calls. One such charge is the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge which allows local telephone companies to recover part of the cost of the telephone line that links each telephone subscriber to the telephone network.

The presubscribed interexchange carrier charge is a monthly fee assessed by the local telephone company on the long distance carrier to whom the line is presubscribed. The Commission permitted local telephone companies to charge long distance companies, such as MCI, a flat rated \$1.50 presubscribed interexchange carrier charge for non-primary residential lines and a flat rated \$2.75 for multi-line business lines.

We understand that different long distance companies recover this charge from their customers in different ways. Accordingly, we encourage consumers to check with different providers to determine whether another carrier offers a more favorable calling plan.

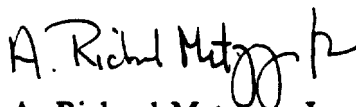
Telephone company costs that are recovered through the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge previously were recovered through per-minute charges assessed to long distance companies and paid to local telephone companies. Consequently, telephone companies were required to reduce those per-minute charges concurrently with the introduction of the presubscribed interexchange carrier charge. In recent letters to the Chairman of the FCC, the three largest long distance carriers stated that they reduced their long distance charges to consumers to reflect this reduction in per-minute charges.

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The Commission has received petitions for reconsideration of many of the actions taken in the *Access Charge Reform Order*. A copy of your letter has been placed in the official public record of that proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-262), and your constituent's concerns will certainly be considered in the course of the Commission's reconsideration proceedings. I appreciate your constituent's interest and views on these important issues. Should Mrs. Simoneaux have any further questions, she may contact the Common Carrier Bureau, Competitive Pricing Division at (202) 418-1520.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Richard Metzger, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

A. Richard Metzger, Jr.
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

JOHN BREAUX
LOUISIANA

MINORITY
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

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April 1, 1998

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WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Ms. Karen Kornbluh
Director, Office of Legislative
and Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Kornbluh:

I have been contacted by Mrs. Patricia Simoneaux of Tulane University regarding confusion about the FCC ruling on Network Access Charges.

I ask that you please give Mrs. Simoneaux's concerns every appropriate consideration within federal guidelines. Any information and guidance you can provide for her will be greatly appreciated. Your reply may be forwarded to the attention of Jeff Lewis.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,



JOHN BREAUX
United States Senator

JB/ihl
Enclosure

First Name:

Last Name:

3 of 12

From:

Mrs.

Patricia W.

Simoneaux

Address1:

Tulane University

Address2:

102 Richardson Building

City:

New Orleans

State: LA

Zip: 70118

Home Phone:

504 392-7802

Work Phone:

504 865-5022

Email Address:

Email Subject:

Communications

Interest:

Message:

As Telecommunications Manager at Tulane University in New Orleans, I would appreciate your input into how to proceed concerning the confusion centering around the recent FCC ruling on Network Access Charge Reform. Tulane is currently being billed by each of its telecommunications providers for the monthly PICC cost of \$2.75 per line. MCI has even gone beyond reasoning and is billing us for every access charge bill from MCI for the month of January included a charge of \$5750.62 for access charges with no explanation as to how they arrived at this figure and little assistance when I called my billing support people in Atlanta. \$\$\$ In addition, the carriers are saving in per-minute access charges as a result of this reform but these savings are not being shared with the user. The end result is a tremendous financial burden on all business users. \$\$\$ I am a member of ACUTA (The Association for Telecommunications Professionals in Higher Education) and they are petitioning the FCC for help in this matter. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you in more detail, and I solicit any input or advice you might give us. Thank you for your assistance in this matter. \$\$\$ Pat Wilks Simoneaux \$\$\$ Telecommunications Manager \$\$\$ Tulane University \$\$\$ \$\$\$

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B.F. :

Bureau : CCB
Assigned To : RHUTSON

Due : 98/05/21

Modified By : CCB

Author : Breaux, John B.
Organization : United States Senator
Address : 516 Hart Senate Office Building

City/State/Zip : Washington DC 20510

Constituent : P Simoneaux

Subject : Ing/complaint re subscriber line charges [ACCESS]

Signature : BUREAU CHIEF

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